



Home *in* Place

SPECIALIST DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2023

Our expansion into Victoria is exciting. It is a privilege to be able to help make a difference to the lives of people seeking quality specialist disability housing and their families like Caleb and his family. Read on for Caleb and his mum Makereta's powerful story of tenacity and hope.

We're working with some fantastic supported independent living (SIL) providers, property owners and investors and other partners in Victoria – and always looking for more.

Speaking of SIL providers, Bare Care supports residents in this month's featured home in Blacktown in Sydney's West. It is great to be working with them and our many other SILs.

Recently I joined other Community Housing Industry Association member representatives to meet with the NDIS Review Secretariat. It was a good opportunity to give our feedback on how the NDIS can work better for SDA tenants and residents first and foremost but also for housing providers to collaborate on challenges and potential solutions in areas of the SDA market.

The Secretariat representatives were very receptive to our comments about the challenges, barriers and opportunities to make providing SDA housing better. I am looking forward to the completion of the Review and ongoing reform. From this month, the Review will work with disability representative and carer organisations. For more information about the Review and how to get involved visit www.ndisreview.gov.au.

Larissa Bridge
Operations Manager SDA & Specialist Services

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Makereta's and Caleb's story

When Makereta and her son Caleb got the keys and opened the door to their new specialist disability accommodation (SDA) home in Mambourin in Victoria, she cried. Tears of joy, exhaustion and relief.

After two years of fighting to be able to live with Caleb in a purpose-built home that met his needs, she says it was difficult to find words to describe her elation.

“The home is what I had dreamed of. It gives Caleb the quality of life I wanted him to have – for him to be comfortable and have some freedom in his life,” Makereta says.

“People kept telling me it was impossible for Caleb to live in a SDA home with me and his brother Saula but with the support of our advocacy service, support co-ordinator, support workers and Home in Place, we did it,” she says.

Read more at:

<https://homeinplace.org/makereta-and-calebs-story/>



SIL in Profile – Bare Care

We're thrilled to be working with another quality Supported Independent Living Provider in **Bare Care**. They are the SIL at our featured SDA property in the Sydney suburb of Blacktown (see story below).

Bare Care's team of compassionate carers has an ambitious and impressive goal of providing quality care that cannot be matched in Australia and the world. They are about homes that enable and providing beautiful living experiences for people with a disability.

The Bare Care team has a lot to say but they use videos to do the talking. Check out Bare Care on vimeo.

Your new forever home? Blacktown, NSW

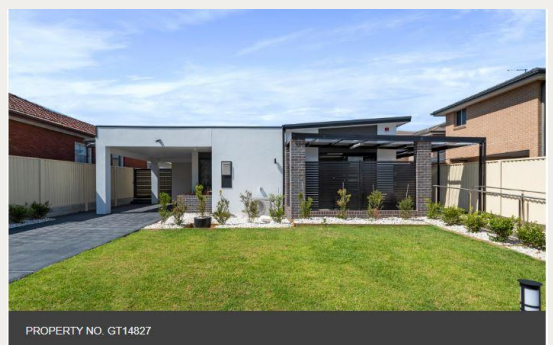
This new, purpose built, boutique suite of five villas is for people requiring high physical support accommodation and is close to community shops, cafes, and amenities.

Take a virtual work through this modern, stunningly appointed home at <https://youtu.be/RjZ7QFVcHP4>.

Bear Care is the Supported Living Provider (SIL).

Home in Place has a range of SDA properties in different SDA categories - from 5-bedroom group homes to custom-built individual homes. We have vacancies in NSW, QLD and VIC.

View our walkthrough videos for some properties on our YouTube channel, and vacancies at homeinplace.org





Meet the team - Karen

Karen is our new Contracts and Agreements Relations Officer. She helps to enrol new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) dwellings with the NDIS. She also implements and manages the services agreements with the Supported Independent Living (SIL) providers and SDA property owners we work with.

She is a relationship builder, bringing experience from customer experience, sales and business development roles in a range of industries - including disability housing. Her last role involved helping people with a disability to move from hospital into appropriate homes.

Karen's tip for property investors and owners wanting to get involved in SDA is to make sure they understand the NDIS and the guidelines for SDA, especially housing.

“Before you buy or build a property make sure it will comply with the guidelines and standards that are different to other forms of housing. I have seen many examples of a property being rejected because it doesn't meet standards – which costs people time and money.”

Karen is a dog lover – especially kelpies. She has two at the moment - 15 year old Jess and three year old Piper. When she isn't at work, Karen loves being outdoors. Piper likes to go paddle boarding with her on the lake.

Federal Government Abolishes the AAT

The Federal Government has announced plans to abolish the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

It will phase out the Tribunal over the next two years. There will also be \$11.7M allocated to streamline case management during that period.

It will announce more details, including what will replace the AAT in coming months.

Industry body focus on disability housing

Our Executive Manager SDA & Specialist Services Larissa Bridge has been invited to join the 2023 leadership group of PowerHousing Australia's Disability Housing Community of Practice (CoP).

Larissa was an active participant in CoP meetings last year. She is excited to be joining the leadership group to assist in advocating and sharing knowledge to improve disability housing for residents, families, investors, partners and support providers.

Industry body, PowerHousing Australia, provides a forum for collaboration amongst housing professionals dedicated to improving lives through the provision of affordable housing. Larissa sees being part of the national leadership in the PowerHousing Australia committee network as an opportunity to shape the future of community housing and projects by PowerHousing Australia in relation to SDA and other disability accommodation.